

Message Text

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TAGS: OECD, EAGR

REF: A) OECD PARIS 24678, B) LONDON 10727

SUBJECT: OECD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 27-28

1. USG SEES SEPTEMBER 27-28 MEETING AS OPPORTUNITY TO
A) FURTHER REDUCE INTERNATIONAL CONCERN OVER IMMEDIATE WORLD
FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION; B) BEGIN DEVELOPING
NECESSARY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION AND CONSUMP-
TION OF FOOD AND FEED GRAINS AND C) HEAR PRELIMINARY IDEAS
ON APPROPRIATE POSSIBLE MEASURES IN FACE OF PRESENT TIGHT
SUPPLIES WHICH COULD THEN BE DISCUSSED DURING OCTOBER 12
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MEETING OF OECD SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP AND ADVISORY

GROUP FROM US, EC, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND CANADA.

2. DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT FOR USE AT THE MEETING (AGR (73) 33 AND AGR (73) 34), WHICH CONCENTRATE ON DATA GATHERING AND EXCHANGE ASPECTS OF SITUATION, APPEAR WELL DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO ATTAINMENT THESE OBJECTIVES. WE RECOMMEND ONLY THAT DISCUSSION OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN (PARA 8 OF AGR (73) BE TENTATIVE ENOUGH SO AS NOT TO TIE HANDS OF OCT. 12 PARTICIPANTS. MOREOVER, IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH OECD AGRICULTURAL MARKETING DIVISION CHIEF VIATTE, USG OFFICIALS REINFORCED VIEW THAT AGCOMMITTEE MEETING COULD SERVE AS FIRST STEP IN PROCESS THAT WOULD BE BROADENED CONSIDERABLY IN OCT. 12 MEETING AS WELL AS XCSS DISCUSSION

OF US PROPOSAL TO APPOINT INDEPENDENT GROUP OF EXPERTS TO LOOK AT LONG-RANGE PROBLEMS OF SUPPLY, DEMAND AND FARM INCOME. US OFFICIALS ALSO URGED THAT OECD SECRETARIAT USE TIME BETWEEN AGCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORS MEETINGS TO SUPPLEMENT SHORT-TERM FIGURES CONTAINED IN AGCOMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE WITH SOME MID-TERM PROJECTIONS. US REP SHOULD ENSURE THAT LATEST US ESTIMATES FOR 1974 CROP AS WELL AS MOST RECENT AND CONSIDERABLY LESS ALARMIST INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL FIGURES (REF B) ARE WORKED INTO AGCOMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION AND DISCUSSION.

3. US REP AT AGCOMMITTEE MEETING, IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH REP TO TCWP, SHOULD MAINTAIN OVERALL POSITION THAT US WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON SHORT TERM PROSPECTS FOR ANIMAL FEED MARKET AND SHOULD AGREE WITH SECRETARIAT'S INTENTION TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT OVERALL FOOD AND FEED GRAIN SITUATION. US REP SHOULD SUPPORT SECRETARIAT DESIRE TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF DISCUSSION IN TCWP AND AGCOM AND, IF DISCUSSION OF EXPORT CONTROLS IS INTRODUCED INTO MEETING BY OTHER DELEGATES, SHOULD SIMPLY NOTE THAT US IMPOSED EXPORT CONTROLS IN FACE OF UNCERTAINTY OF DEMAND AND RISING SPECULATION AND REMOVED THEM WHEN MARKETS CALMED AND INCREASED US PRODUCTION FIGURES WERE CONFIRMED.
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